

mand. In my last letter to the Secretary of War I respectfully stated that if I were given permission to raise an army corps of two divisions, to be put under the command of some General like Wood or Pershing or Barry or Kuhn, I desired for myself only the position of junior among the eight brigade commanders. My position would have been exactly the same as theirs, except that I would have ranked after and have been subordinate to the rest of them.

"The President alludes to our proffered action as one that would have an effect 'politically/ but as not contributing to the * success of the war,' and as representing a 'policy of personal gratification or advantage.' I wish respectfully but emphatically to deny that any political consideration whatever or any desire for personal gratification or advantage entered into our calculations. Our undivided purpose was to contribute effectively to the success of the war.

"The President condemns our proposal on the ground that 'undramatic' action is needed, action that is practical and of scientific definiteness and precision.' There was nothing dramatic in our proposal save as all proposals indicating eagerness or willingness to sacrifice life for an ideal are dramatic. It is true that our division would have contained the sons or grandsons of men who in the Civil War wore the blue or the gray; for instance, the sons or grandsons of Phil Sheridan, Fitzhugh Lee, Stonewall Jackson, James A. Garfield, Simon Bolivar Buckner, Adna R. Chaffee, Nathan Bedford Forrest; but these men

would have
served either with commissions or in the
ranks, precisely
like the rest of us; and all alike would have
been judged
solely by the efficiency—including the [€] scientific
definite-
ness'—with which they did their work and
served the flag
of their loyal devotion."

The full text of Roosevelt's address to the
volunteers and
of correspondence that he held with the
Secretary of War,
Newton D. Baker, on the subject of his
military division,
was published at the time in the *Metropolitan
Magazine* and
subsequently included in the appendix of a
volume of his